



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release:

### **CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES HONORED AT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

Atlanta, GA (February 23, 2007). Another new collection of “Footsteps” of civil rights icons will take their place in the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame Monday morning at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created in 2004 to give recognition to those courageous soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a reality for all. This extraordinary display has enhanced the historic value of the geographic area, enriched the cultural heritage, and augmented tourist attractions in the city of Atlanta.

The 2007 assemblage of Walk of Fame inductees include: **Lerone Bennett, Jr.; Tony Bennett; Marian Wright Edelman; Mayor Shirley Franklin; Attorney Frankie Freeman; Joe Louis; Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.; Sir Lynden Pindling; Sir Sidney Poitier; Dr. Otis W. Smith; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder; and Jean Childs Young.**

The Walk resembles a parade of 2'x 2' granite squares imported from Africa and embedded into the Visitor Center promenade at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. The actual shoes of each honoree, used to create the footprint impressions on the granite markers bearing their respective names, will also be on display during the induction ceremony.

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame is sponsored by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc., and was created and designed by **Xernona Clayton**, Founder and Executive Producer of the renowned Trumpet Awards. Ms. Clayton states, “This is a permanent monument to those whose contributions are testaments to the fact that human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.”

“Housed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame stands as a sterling reminder of the human spirit that drives the struggle for civil rights,” said **Judy Forte**, superintendent, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. “We salute the Trumpet Awards Foundation for selecting an outstanding and deserving slate of honorees.”

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Footprints from previous years include: **Reverend Joseph E. Boone; Reverend William Holmes Borders; Xernona Clayton; President William Clinton; Lena Horne; John E. Jacob; Reverend James Orange; The Honorable Bernard Parks; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and Stevie Wonder** who were inducted in 2006. **Henry Aaron, Ted Turner, Harry Belafonte, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Dick Gregory, Mayor Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., Ralph E. McGill, Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Judge Elbert P. Tuttle, Sr., Nancy Wilson, and Reverend Addie L. Wyatt** who were inducted in 2005. **Juanita J. Abernathy; Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Sr.; Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.; Julian Bond; President Jimmy Carter; Medgar Evers; Dorothy Height; Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.; Judge Frank M. Johnson; President Lyndon Baines Johnson; Congressman John Lewis; Evelyn G. Lowery; Reverend Joseph E. Lowery; Justice Thurgood Marshall; Rosa Parks; Reverend Hosea Williams; and Ambassador Andrew Young** were placed at the site in 2004.

Each year more foot soldiers will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. There are many more spaces designated for future placements of worthy footsteps.

“We are building a memorial to the civil struggle that depicts the steps taken toward freedom and justice with the tireless exertions and passionate concern of these devoted and determined souls,” said Ms. Clayton.

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